

U.S. Climate Alliance Statement on Leadership
Global Climate Action Summit – 13 September 2018

Across every sector, we continue to lead the nation in reducing GHG emissions, and have done so while growing our economies faster and creating 1.3 million clean energy jobs. We have worked across party lines to share our experiences and find common solutions, and as a result are already more than halfway to the Paris Agreement target.

However, in the last year, the federal rollback of our nation’s climate framework has had real consequences – slowing the reduction of carbon pollution across every state in the country, putting the health of American families at risk and raising costs through the intentional erosion of efficiency and pollution control measures already being implemented. In that same year, climate disasters have ravaged our communities, and cost the United States over \$300 billion.

As leaders, we cannot ignore reality. We must continue to put politics aside and focus on the solutions at hand. The urgency of the climate crisis demands more innovation and ambition. We therefore reiterate our commitment to meeting our share of the Paris Agreement’s emission reduction goals, and announce a suite of new actions to blunt the attacks on the progress we have already made.

The U.S. Climate Alliance is committed to taking the following new actions:

Drive down potent Short-Lived Climate Pollutants

Reducing super pollutants - such as methane, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and black carbon – can avoid as many as 2 million premature deaths and 52 million tons of crop losses annually. Action on SLCPs also presents a tremendous economic opportunity for U.S. companies at the cutting edge of SLCP solutions.

Comment [JC1]: These are global figures. Julie to find national figures.

Building on our commitment under the Short-Lived Climate Pollutant (SLCP) Challenge, we are **launching an SLCP Action Plan** that provides a roadmap for collectively reducing our SLCPs emissions by as much as **40-50 percent by 2030**. We also commit to **develop and implement state-specific strategies** on how we will get there.

To demonstrate our commitment to lead, the states of [XYZ] announce their intention to propose regulations, and [ABC] to consider regulations, in 2019 to prohibit the use of high-warming HFCs, consistent with the 2015 and 2016 EPA SNAP Rules. These proposed regulations will be substantially consistent across these states and with the regulations finalized or already proposed by California. The U.S. Climate Alliance commits to accelerating the replacement of climate warming HFCs through voluntary and regulatory approaches, and will work together in the coming year to explore actions appropriate for each of our states.

Protect our Natural and Working Lands

We also recognize that we cannot achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement through traditional mitigation sectors, like energy and industry, alone. We must pull harmful carbon out of our atmosphere as fast as possible. **We therefore resolve to protect and sequester carbon in our lands, and will integrate actions and pathways into state GHG mitigation plans by 2020.** Through these actions, we will also secure the livelihoods of farmers, ranchers and foresters, protect our food systems and water quality, and preserve our nation’s natural beauty for generations to come.

Decarbonize the Transportation Sector

Alliance states are already reducing transportation emissions at 3 times the rate of the rest of the United States, and 3 out of 4 ZEVs on American roads are in our states (*source: Rhodium report*). Building on this

momentum, **we resolve to work towards decarbonizing the transportation sector**, our largest source of GHG emissions today. Together, the 17 states and territories that make up the US Climate Alliance are investing billions of dollars in zero emission vehicle (ZEV) infrastructure and vehicle deployment, and **announce the deployment of an additional \$1.4bn** [from the auto settlement] through state programs, mitigation funding, and utility and private investments. We challenge the rest of the states to deploy all available resources towards meeting this same goal.

Increase access to affordable solar power for all Americans

All Americans should have the right to clean, affordable power. U.S. Climate Alliance governors are united in their opposition to the misguided federal import tariffs on solar panels and cells, which are forecast to reduce solar installations and cause the loss of roughly 23,000 American jobs this year alone. **We commit to offset the impacts of the federal solar import tariffs through the implementation of innovative solar cost reduction measures, and will work to modernize our grids.** As a first step, we announce the release of the *Grid Modernization Playbook* and the *U.S Climate Alliance Solar Guidebook*, groundbreaking implementation resources for regulators and utilities that will reduce emissions and save money for consumers.

Save families money and avoid emissions through improved energy efficiency standards

Coordinated action among the Alliance states to align around a common set of product efficiency standards could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 5.5 million tons and save consumers across our states \$4 billion dollars by 2025. Today we announce our intent to collaborate on the adoption of common appliance efficiency standards and to coordinate on their implementation and enforcement. We agree to identify an initial set of priority standards already developed and ready for adoption and to begin work on a coordinated plan to evaluate and adopt new standards. As an early demonstration of leadership, Vermont passed legislation in this year, while Massachusetts, Washington, Oregon, New York and Rhode Island are either planning for or have already proposed legislation in their legislatures. [XYZ states] announce that they will adopt more stringent energy efficiency standards in 2019 and begin to shift the entire U.S. market towards more efficient products.

Comment [JC2]: Have not cleared with these states their inclusion here. Indicative only.

To ensure swift progress, encourage private sector participation and maximize the opportunity create jobs and grow our clean energy sectors, we announce our intent to partner with the Appliance Standards Awareness Project, an initiative of the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy to advance this effort.

Protect our communities from the impacts of climate change

There is increasing urgency for states to support efforts to build climate change resiliency, enhance local decision-making and to protect communities, residents and resources from climate-change driven extreme weather, wildfire, drought, sea level rise and other impacts. In August 2017, the federal government disbanded a Federal Advisory Committee designed to support climate science and action in the United States. In January 2018, the group was [[HYPERLINK "https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-first-meeting-reconvened-scientific-advisory-committee-climate-change"](https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-first-meeting-reconvened-scientific-advisory-committee-climate-change)] as an Independent Advisory Committee (IAC). The IAC pledged to continue its vital work and deliver recommendations to states in the U.S. Climate Alliance and the nation. Today, U.S. Climate Alliance governors pledge their continued support for robust, independent climate science and will work with the IAC to support the broad availability of climate information.

The Alliance States are also working directly with over XXX communities to help local governments assess their vulnerability and prioritize and implement resiliency measures to protect against climate change impacts. To expand this work across Alliance states we will partner with the Nature Conservancy to provide

PREDECISIONAL – INDICATIVE ONLY – DRAFT vAug 16

direct planning assistance and resilience building strategies to our communities who are on the front lines of this challenge.